A

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

LATE

REVIVALS of RELIGION

IN A NUMBER OF TOWNS IN THE

New-England States,

AND ALSO IN

NOVA-SCOTIA.

EXTRACTED CHIEFLY FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY SEVERAL GENTLEMEN OF UNQUESTIONABLE VERACITY.

To which is added,

A VERY INTERESTING *LETTER,*

FROM A MINISTER IN *LONDON* TO HIS FRIEND IN MASSACHUSETTS.

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT, &c.

EXTRACT 1.—*Mr. S—— W——, of Windham, in Connecticut, thus writes to his friend in Boston.*

Windham, Oct. 2, 1798.

Rev. and dear Sir,

YOU will pardon me for uſing the freedom to trouble you with a line from ſo unworthy, though ſincere friend. It is a time of general health in theſe parts; but this is not the beſt news I ſhall acquaint you with: for "as cold water to a thirſty ſoul, ſo is good news from a far country." God is carrying on a glorious work in ſeveral towns in theſe parts. The work began in Mansfield, firſt ſociety, about five or ſix months ago, in a very gradual manner; but ſoon took a very rapid ſpread in the weſt part of the town. A ſermon preached in that neighborhood at a funeral, by the Rev. Mr. Shearman, was greatly bleſſed. The ſpirit of the Lord ſeemed to ſweep all before it, like an overflowing flood, though with very little noiſe or crying out. It is wonderful to ſee the ſurpriſing alteration in that people in ſo ſhort a time. I conclude there are not leſs than an hundred ſouls converted in that town ſince the work began. Soon after, it began in Hampton, but did not ſpread with that degree of rapidity as it did in Mansfield. The ſame happy work has lately taken place in Aſhford, in the Rev. Mr.

Mr. Pond's ſociety, with a good degree of power. It has alſo ſpread into the ſecond ſociety in Mansfield, under the paſtoral care of Rev. Mr. Welſh; alſo in the upper part of Canterbury, and lately in Abington ſociety in Pomfret.

Dear ſir, we may ſay in the midſt of judgment God is ſhowing himſelf marvelloufly good and kind; and as it ſeemed our land, a few months ago, was fully ripe for deſtruction, and the hot thunderbolts of divine wrath were hanging over our heads, yet God has made a rich diſplay of his grace, in the converſion of ſo many ſouls. One thing is remarkable in this reformation, there is ſuch evidence carried in the work, that none, or but very few dare to oppoſe it. Bigotry, which was ſo common between the Standing Order (Congregationaliſts) and the Diſſenters, is done away.—This work is chiefly among the Standing Order.

EXTRACT 2.—*Containing a further account of the ſame work, in a letter from the Rev.* E—— P——, *to his Parents, dated Aſhford, September* 24, 1798.

Honored Parents,

I MUST inform you of the work of God, which is going on in theſe parts. Early in May, an attention began in the firſt ſociety in Mansfield, which increaſed to a great degree, ſo as to become general. It then began in Hampton, and is as general as in Mansfield. About four weeks ſince, it began here, and for the time, has ſpread very faſt; ſo that about eighty have been under great concern: Of this number

number, nearly twenty have a hope that they have been "born again." The work seems to be spreading. In one family of my people who have only three little daughters, the eldest fifteen years old, they all give evidence that they have been born again! The work has also began in Mr. Welsh's society in Mansfield; and the prospects are very favorable in Westford.——Do unite in prayer to God; if only two or three, don't omit it, that God would pour out his Spirit upon you. This seems to have been the beginning of the work in Mansfield.

EXTRACT 3.—*Containing an account of the beginning of the reformation in Hartford, in a letter from the Rev. S—— S. N——, of that city, to his friend in Boston, dated January 14, 1799.*

Rev. and dear Sir,

A GLORIOUS revival of religion has lately taken place among us. Two of my brothers-in-law, the youngest about 12 years old, and the other fourteen, had been under deep conviction at times, for several weeks before our last Thanksgiving; and on that day, whilst I was preaching, the youngest was brought out clear in his mind, and went home with his little soul overflowing with joy. This affected the whole family; several of whom we trust, could rejoice with him; all the rest were much alarmed, and led to cry out under pungent conviction, "What shall we do to be saved?" From this it has spread from house

to houſe, and from heart to heart, till almoſt the whole city has got alarmed.

I think as many as 15 or 20 have been hopefully converted; many more are under painful convictions, and the work ſtill ſpreading. It has alſo extended its happy influence among the other denominations, and they open conferences, and welcome its approach.

We have meetings almoſt every evening in the week. Here is ſurely a Macedonian cry, "Do come over and help us."

EXTRACT 4.—*Containing a further account of the ſame work, in a letter from the Rev. J—— B——, dated at Trumbull, February 6, 1799, to his friend in Newbury-Port.*

My dear friend and brother,

THROUGH the kind hand of God, I arrived here yeſterday. I ſtopped at Hartford, and preached five ſermons.

The ſpirit of hearing at Hartford is greater than any repreſentations which have been made. Young people of both ſexes flock by hundreds, and the proſpect is flattering in the extreme. Conference meetings are held every night in different private houſes. In Mr. Strong's ſociety, 60 are thought to be under conviction, and 20 have been hopefully brought into goſpel liberty. In Mr. Nelſon's 30, and ſome in Mr. Flint's.

The youth hold correſpendence one with another by letter, and with thoſe of the neighboring towns. Hundreds are under ſome ſerious concern, while hundreds more ſtand aſtoniſhed, and are ready to cry, "*What meaneth* all *this?*"

The

The Lord ſeems to have ſtepped out of the uſual path of Ordinances, to effect this work more immediately in the diſplays of his almighty power and out-pouring of his Spirit; probably to ſhow that the work is his own. It is not attended with noiſe and confuſion, but with ſolemnity and reverence. No fire; no ruſhing wind; no earthquake; but a ſtill ſmall voice goes before this wonderful work; no doubt, to hide pride from man. The miniſters are ſtirred up to uncommon diligence and labor, ſo that they have ſcarcely time to prepare for public exerciſes.

The ſacred flame has ſpread into many neighboring towns,* and the pious are flocking into Hartford to be eye-witneſſes of this glorious work. I have felt myſelf ſo much engaged in preaching, viſiting and converſing with old and young, that my attention has been literally taken off from Wife, Children, Flock, and bodily infirmities. O that my paſt time had been better employed and filled than it has been. Should my health be continued, I hope, by the grace of God, to ſpend my ſtength wholly in the Lord's cauſe, which carries its own reward with it.

Two hundred miles N. W. of Hartford, on the border of the Indian nations, I am informed that the Lord is pouring out his ſpirit plentifully. The Aborigines flock to hear the goſpel, and fall under the word like Dagon before the Ark. I have ſeen a preacher from thoſe parts,

* It is mentioned in a letter from a reſpectable character in Hartford, of April 15, that it has ſpread into nearly one hundred towns.

who

who gives the moſt flattering accounts, and informs, that very large numbers have been added to the churches in that vicinity the laſt year.

After ſermon was finiſhed upon a late occaſion in the woods, an Indian ſtood up with tears in his eyes, and thus addreſſed the audience: "I deſire to bleſs God, that white people ever came into this country. White people brought the bible, and the religion of Jeſus with them. White people prayed for the converſion of the heathen, and I ſtand up this day as a living witneſs of the power of God's converting grace *in anſwer to their prayers.* Continue to pray for the converſion of more heathens, that they alſo may be brought to the knowledge of Jeſus."

EXTRACT 5.—*Rev. C—— B——, of Shaftſbury, in Vermont, gives the following particulars of the reformation in that town.*

February 21, 1799.

Rev. Sir,

I AM ſenſible that under too great a degree of animation, even Chriſtians too often exaggerate their accounts of revivals of religion. But I will attempt a ſimple, but ſhort narrative of the late wonderful work of God in this place.

In the month of April laſt, there appeared nothing among this people but the moſt rapid increaſe of every ſpecies of vice and immorality; and even profeſſors had grown cold as to religious exerciſes.

Towards

Towards the laſt of that month, it pleaſed God to viſit my poor ſoul with ſome ſenſe of my own vileneſs and ſhort comings, and how little I had done for God and the good of ſouls. At this time I think I had a glimſe of the infinite character of Jehovah, which made me ſhrink into nothing in my own eſteem; then, to my aſtoniſhment, my ſoul was ſtrangely drawn forth, at particular times, in ſecret prayer, for the ſalvation of ſinners. Repeated exerciſes of this kind gave me ſtrong confidence, that the Lord would ſoon work ſalvation in this place. There were, however, no favorable ſymptoms among the people until the month of July; then a young woman, who had been converted ſome years before, was ſtirred up, and came forward in baptiſm. Her converſion was made the mean of the awakening of a number of young people. Thus the work began. In Auguſt, four perſons more were baptized. In September, I baptized ſeventeen. Many were awakened by the ſolemnity of this ordinance. (Indeed I think there was no one mean more bleſſed for the conviction of ſinners, through the whole courſe of this work, than the adminiſtration of baptiſm.) But to return; we as yet held our church conferences, to hear the relations of candidates, but once a month. At the cloſe of October, we were obliged to attend two days, and then were not able to hear all that wiſhed to relate. The next Lord's day was a ſevere ſtorm; baptiſm was omitted: The church attended two days of that week alſo, to hear the young converts declare what the Lord had done

for

for them. I was then under the neceſſity to call for aſſiſtance in adminiſtering baptiſm. Accordingly, brother Samuel Rogers attended the next Sabbath, and we baptized 46 that day. We then found it neceſſary to hold our church conferences to hear relations once a week. The next Sabbath I baptized 21; the next 16; the next 13; the next 9; and there have been but a few weeks ſince, that I have not been called to the precious work of baptizing. Zion's gates were truly then thronged with converts!

The whole number added to this church, ſince laſt May, is 175; 25 by letter and other ways; and 150 by baptiſm. Our whole number is 346. Many of this number are removed into different parts of the country; there are, however, nearly 300 that live in this vicinity, the remoteſt of them not more than ſix miles from our meeting-houſe.

There have alſo been 70 added to the Weſt church in this town ſince the work began; and 13 to the Eaſt church.

As to the principal means by which this work has been carried on, I muſt ſay, that no one's little or great preaching can juſtly lay any claim to the honors of it. Several brethren in the miniſtry have viſited us in the time, and all of them were bleſſed in their labors. A brother Jones, from England, was an inſtrument for the awakening of ſeveral.

I have been filled with wonder and aſtoniſhment, to ſee how the Lord has been pleaſed to preſerve ſome of almoſt all the preaching that has been in this town ſince I have been here.

here. Even when I had mourned and thought I had labored in vain, and that my preaching was as water ſpilt upon a rock; the Lord has now made known that he deſigned it for the good of ſouls. O my brother, let us never be diſcouraged; we cannot always tell when our labors are bleſſed. I cannot ſay how many, but the Lord has made my poor weak efforts the means of awakening a conſiderable number. But the greateſt part of the people have been awakened by attending the ſolemnity of baptiſm, and by converſation one with another.—Indeed, the moſt that I can ſay is, It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

There has not in years paſt been the moſt cordial fellowſhip between three churches in this town; but the Lord has now effected a happy union between us. On the laſt Lord's day in January, we all met at one communion table. That happy day my ſoul had deſired for years. Nothing but experience could have made me believe it poſſible, that I could have felt ſo much ſolid delight, anticipated ſo much trouble, and rejoice with ſo much trembling, at one and the ſame time. That day I truſt will never be forgotten by me.

The north part of Bennington, which lies ſouth of us, has ſhared conſiderably in this grace, and have joined with the churches in this town, and ſome few members from the town, north of us; but the greateſt part that have been wrought upon are within this town, which is ſix miles ſquare.

In

In about two months after the work began, the whole town seemed to be affected. Conference meetings were attended two or three times in a week in almost every neighborhood; and it was surprising to me, that scarcely a single instance appeared of any overheated zeal, or flight of passion! Both sinners under conviction, and those newly brought into the liberty of the gospel, conversed in their meetings with the greatest freedom; they spake one at a time a few words, in the most solemn manner I ever heard people in my life. And in general they spake so low, that their assemblies must be perfectly still, or they could not hear them: Yet a remarkable power attended their conversation. Sinners would tremble as though they felt themselves in the immediate presence of the great Jehovah.

Some of all ranks and characters among us have been taken; from the most respectable members of society, to the vilest in the place. Some of our most noted Deists have bowed the knee to King Jesus. And a number of Universalists have forsaken their delusions, and embraced the truth.

In the revival four years ago last summer, we then received ten children into the church, aged from nine to thirteen years, with a number of other young people; all of them remain in good standing with us, and are now able to help others; excepting one, who, I trust, is gone to the church triumphant. In this revival we have received sixteen whose ages are from nine to fifteen years. From nine, I have

baptized

baptized some of almost every age to upwards of seventy!

We have now upwards of one hundred unmarried persons in this church. There are also a large number of youths who have joined the other churches in this town. O my God! keep them in the love of the truth! My very soul trembles when I think of them. There is not a sufficient number of young people now left in the town (who can unite) to carry on their merry meetings. Every company of them is broken up.

I lately enjoyed the happiness of having upwards of seventy youths and children, that were professors, to visit and hold a conference at my house in one evening. You may guess, but it would be difficult to tell, with what a mixture of joy and trembling I was then filled.

The severest cold, snow and ice we have had this tedious winter, I have not heard once mentioned as any terror to the most delicate ladies, young or old, we have in the place; but they have cheerfully followed their Divine Redeemer into the liquid grave, without the least intimidation.

As to myself, I think if ever I knew what it was to have extraordinary strength, it has been within a few months past. My lungs, which I had thought were on the decay, now seemed to renew their youth. Preaching three and four times a week, besides attending other meetings almost every day for months together, seemed very little if any to exhaust my strength. I think, of all men in the world, I have the greatest cause to be humble before God, for his abund-

ant goodneſs beſtowed upon a moſt unworthy wretch.

When I think of my own weakneſs and inſufficiency, and the great number of young, inexperienced Chriſtians commited to my charge, my heart ſhrinks within me; and I am ready to wiſh they had a more able and pious watchman to go before them. But all the hope I have is, that He who leadeth Joſeph like a flock will gather the lambs in his arms, and gently lead his flock into the flowery fields of goſpel truth, and beſide the ſtill waters of eternal life.

I ſometimes anticipate ſo much trouble, that it quite abſorbs my ſpirits, and drowns my joy. Then I think it beſt to rejoice while I can, and let to-morrow take thought for itſelf.

It is, however, a very intereſting criſis with us; if we are faithful, and make a right improvment of the great mercies beſtowed upon us, we may continue to be a happy people; if not, a ſeries of trouble and ſorrow await us. Dear brother, pray for us that we may be kept in the love of the truth; that the God of love and peace may ever dwell with us.

I muſt not indulge my feelings, I ſhall intrude upon your patience.

EXTRACT 6.—*A gentleman in Pembroke thus writes to his friend in Boſton.*

Pembroke, April 2, 1799.

Dear Sir,

GOD has been pleaſed to begin a glorious work in the firſt pariſh in Marſhfield, and a few ſcattering drops in towns adjoining, although

though but a few as yet. O may we all be enabled to wrestle like Jacob and prevail like Israel. We need the prayers of all that have an interest at the throne of grace, that we may be kept from error and delusion. O may the time soon come, when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth, as the waters do the seas.

As to the present state of the reformation among us, there are between 30 and 40, in a judgment of charity, brought to the knowledge of the truth; and more than that number appear to be under serious impressions of mind.

EXTRACT 7.—*The Rev. P—— P——, of Deer-Isle, writes thus in a letter to his friend in Newbury-Port.*

Deer-Isle, March 20, 1799.

Dear Brother,

IN your last letter to me, you wrote you had heard, there was a revival of religion somewhere in these parts; and desired me to give you an account of it.

In the beginning of June last, I was called to Mount-Desert to administer sacraments to a church who have not a stated Pastor, and tarried with them about nine days; when, in the preaching of my second Sermon, the glory of the Lord came down in a wonderful manner. One convicted, and hopefully converted under that Sermon was added to the church about two days after, and three others who had before obtained a hope. Three months after this, I went again to administer the Lord's Supper, at which time I admitted twenty-eight who had hopefully

hopefully been brought home in the interval. The work of conviction was then going on powerfully in that town and spreading into those adjoining on the same island. Our association had licensed dear Mr. Ebenezer Eaton to preach who improved his talent, laboring night and day among them, whom the Lord remarkably owned. How many have been brought out since I was there, I am not informed; but, according to the best accounts, there are many. The Lord multiply the number and add to the Church of such as shall be saved.

I now come a little nearer home. In the beginning of winter, this glorious work began in Sedgwick, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Daniel Merrill. Perhaps there hath not been a work so powerful, and so much like the work fifty eight years ago. In a time of such extraordinaries, it could not reasonably be expected but some things would be a little wild and incoherent, considering the various tempers, infirmities and dispositions of mankind: But I believe my young and dear brother Merrill, together with experienced Christians were very careful to distinguish the precious from the vile—to correct errors, "to set the people in the way of his steps," so that there appears to be no prevalence of enthusiasm among them, according to the best information. How great the number is of those who have been brought in hope, I am not able to give any tolerable good account: Some say there are about an hundred, others about double that number; I believe they are all

all very uncertain. Bleſſed be God, the work is yet going on there, though not with equal rapidity.

And now dear Sir, let your imagination paint to your view the ſtriking ſcene, of an hundred ſouls, men, women, and children, at the ſame time under the work of the law. The tears, ſobs, groans and cries, iſſuing from ſcores at a time! All the terrors of the law crowding and preſſing in upon them; their ſins, in infinite numbers and aggravations, ſtaring them in the face; all their old vain hopes gone, and cut off, and every refuge failing! Hear them freely confeſſing their old abominations, their former enmity to the great doctrines of original ſin, election, the ſovereignty of divine, free grace, the power of God diſplayed in effectual vocation; above all, the juſtice of God in their damnation! How often are ſouls brought out into the peace and comfort of the love of God, and the ſweet conſolations of the Holy Spirit. The dead hear the voice of the Son of God, and live. Children are brought to cry, "Hoſanna to the Son of David." Indeed this glorious work has been wonderful among children; and God has made inſtruments of them to perfect his praiſe in carrying on his work.

This bleſſed work of God has began in Blue-Hill; but as yet has not gained the aſcendency. I ſhall therefore come to my own dear people of Deer-Iſle. And here, perhaps the work is as remarkable as at Sedgwick, but not ſo rapid. Not more than eight months ago it appeared to me that religion was near expir-

ing among us, except in a very handful of professors. Deism had taken an unaccountable stride, and spread itself over a great number of inhabitants. And now, no Bible, nor Christ, but the Christian religion, and Christians, were the song of the drunkard; and every drunkard, and every vice was deemed harmless, and inoffensive to God. I had no reason to think but by the next annual meeting of the town, they would vote the Gospel out from them. When the aforementioned work at Penobscot and Mount-Desert was going on, it seemed to have no influence on our people. This, you may be sure, was very grievous to me. However, I think I was enabled to bear witness to the truth with great freedom. In October, I perceived a more close attention to the word, but nothing special as yet. After I was confined to my house, the work began to appear; and though I could not go abroad, nor preach at the meeting-house, there was seldom a day but more or less visited me under their trouble, and I preached in my own house when I was not able to stand on my feet. At length we had the assistance of Mr. E. Eaton, whom God remarkably owns. I believe there are about forty, men, women and children, who have obtained a hope; and great numbers are under pressing conviction. The work is now on the increase. May the Lord continue and still increase it till they are all brought in. The mouth of deism is at present stopped, and against the children of Israel not so much as a dog is suffered to move his tongue. O may the Lord

go on from conquering to conquer, till the whole earth shall be filled with his glory.

Thus, dear Sir, I have complied with your desire. If you think proper, you may cause the foregoing Narrative to be printed in the newspapers. Such accounts may be a means of putting a careless people under consideration.

EXTRACT 8.—*A Letter from a person in Deer Isle, to a Society with which he is connected in Newbury Port, dated March 25, 1799.*

Dear Friends and Brethren,

WHILE I am partaking a rich repast, I heartily desire my friends may have a share of a feast indeed. It is in vain for me to attempt to describe the wonders of the love and grace of God manifested in a marvellous manner among us, and in the adjacent parts. It has pleased God to visit us by the out-pouring of his blessed Spirit, so that even opposers acknowledge it to be the work of God, of whom some of the greatest have been (I hope) savingly wrought upon.

This blessed and glorious work first began in a small neighborhood that have lived in a careless and negligent manner as to the attendance on the means of grace: The head of the first family that was wrought upon, is a man of about sixty years of age: I never saw him at a meeting but twice since I lived on the island, before this winter: God has been pleased to visit him and his wife, and they both appear to be humble Christians, with several others of that family. The work is daily increasing and spread-

ing

ing through the town; there were four or five brought into the light under one sermon this week; these have nineteen persons come forward and made a public profession of religion, and joined the Church already, and nearly as many more profess to have a hope.

This work has been more extensive in Sedgwick: I am credibly informed it has visited every house for 14 miles, and about one hundred souls are hopefully converted. What shall we say to these things? Let us adore the free grace of our blessed God and Savior. I think there is great encouragement for all that love our Lord, and have an interest at the throne of grace, to plead with God to spread this glorious work. Let us all adore and praise his name for his wonderful works to the sons of men. I bless God that he has given me to see such glorious days of the Son of Man. It hath been a Sabbath to me all this winter; I have enjoyed a continual feast, and find it good to wait on God. I had rather be a door-keeper in his house, than to dwell in the tents of sin.

O that it would please God to cause a glorious shower of divine grace to descend upon you. My soul longs for your salvation, that every member of your little society may be a partaker of the heavenly grace; may this be a mean of stirring you up, and engaging your hearts in the things of God. Let not worldly cares turn your attention from this most important concern. Not only our present but everlasting happiness lies here.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT 9—*A letter written by Mrs. M——S——, in the District of Maine, to the Rev. I—— B——, at Middleborough.*

Litchfield, April 6, 1799.

Dear Sir,

"THERE has been a wonderful out pouring of God's Spirit in these parts this winter; especially among the youth. As many as 25 have joined this church this winter, who are not more than 20 years old; and one lad who was but nine. I believe there is not one house missed for seven or eight miles, but what the Lord has taken some out of every family. And one family, who but a few years ago were in open opposition to this cause, 7 out of 11 have now professed to know Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection; one of whom was baptized last Lord's day. And while we were by the water side, the power of the Lord came down like the rushing of a mighty wind. One young woman was so struck with a sense of her duty, that she could not stand on her feet. The people seeing her faulter, thought she was faint; but she said, No, no; her friends were in such opposition to the Baptists, that she had never said any thing openly about religion. In the afternoon instead of a sermon she told her exercises, and two more who were baptized the same day. We thought the reformation was almost over in this place; but we find the Lord has not forsaken us; blessed be his name, he is still giving us a taste of his love.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT 10.—*Another letter, dated Bowdoinham, April 9, 1799, from the Rev. J—— M——, to the same, contains the following.*

SINCE our last association, elder William Stinson, who is ordained over the first church in Litchfield, has baptized 118. The greatest part of them belong to that town. The winter before the last there was the most powerful work in Bowdoin that I ever saw since I came into these parts. It prevailed through the town. Elder Potter baptized 22 in one day. And it was as powerful in Litchfield last winter; Elder Stinson baptized 18 there in one day. These were two as cold winters as were ever known here. The work has now begun in this town. Six persons have lately manifested a change of heart; two of them are my children. The work still prevails.

EXTRACT 11.—*A young Lady from the same place writes as follows.*

THE 6th day of last February I was taken as it were out of the belly of hell, and my feet set upon a rock, and a new song put into my mouth, even praise to the Most High. The heavens, which I before thought wore a gloomy aspect, now seemed to glitter with the glory of God. And the animal creation seemed jointly to whisper praises to their Creator. This new scene reminded me of man in his first happy state. In this frame I had a view of the justice of God and of Christ's sufferings, which I can't describe to none but those who have drank of the same fountain. February 9th, I

was

was enabled to follow my blessed Savior into the water; but I have since been brought to feel that I am nothing, and to abhor myself.*

EXTRACT. 12.—*From the Rev. J——D——, in Nova-Scotia, to his friend, in Boston, dated Halifax, May 25, 1799.*

Dear Brother,

NOTWITHSTANDING many complaints as to the state of religion in some parts; yet God is marvellously visiting several townships with the showers of his grace. In Annapolis County the following places have shared largely, viz. Granville, Willmouth, Nictau, and Aylesford. In King's County, Horton and Cornwallis have been wonderfully visited. Sinners have been converted to God, and Christians to their duty. Two Pedo-baptist Ministers have been baptized, and a great many young converts. The three last sacramental occasions, I think there were baptized, the 1st. thirteen—the 2d. twenty-seven—the 3d. twenty-eight.

There are also some favorable symptoms among the Dutch people at Lunenburgh. Many of them that had been violent opposers of religion, having spent all their arrows, say they will fight no more. Some are under very serious impressions, and a few hopefully converted.

EXTRACT

* The first church in the Bowdoinham association was constituted in May, 1781, and now they have 29 churches and 1353 members.

EXTRACT 13.—*Containing a further account of the same work, in a Letter from the Rev. T—— H. C——, to his friend in Boston, dated Annapolis, July 15, 1799.*

Dear Sir,

I AM confident you will be glad to hear of the advancement of Christ's kingdom, though by an unskilful hand. Therefore shall attempt to give you some account of what God has done among us. The Fall after I was last at Boston, it pleased God to visit our Society, at the lower part of Granville; it was a blessed time of God's power and additions were made to the church. A year ago last January, God began to visit us here, and in our Society at Willmouth, where I preach a third part of my time. It has been a most astonishing time of God's power, such as I never knew before. I cannot give you a full description of it. I have been frequently called out of my bed at night to visit distressed souls. They have sometimes been brought from the deepest distress to shout the praises of the living God. My four eldest children, I doubt are made partakers of grace divine. Two of them are baptized. Since the work began, I have baptized 173 persons (in about thirteen months) but not all in our church. Cornwallis and Horton have shared largely with us. I have baptized two of our Ministers* last summer, and am to baptize another as soon as I can go where he lives.

Our

* This Connection or Association was formed of Pedo and Anti-pedo-baptists.

Our Congregations have increaſed greatly. Laſt year we built a new Meeting-Houſe at the upper end of Granville, where I preach a third part of my time, and this ſummer we have enlarged it twenty feet. O that we may never be high minded, but fear.

EXTRACT 14.—*From a Miniſter in Connecticut to his friend in Boſton.*

Lyme, June 30, 1799.

Dear Brother in Chriſt,

ACCORDING to your deſire, I will endeavor to deſcribe ſome of the effects of the glorious work of God in this place, the preceding Fall and Winter. Previous to which, I muſt inform you, there was a great ſtupidity on the minds of our brethren, who appeared to dwell in their ceiled houſes while the houſe of God lay waſte. There were a few drops in the month of Auguſt; but on the firſt Lord's-day in September many began to be alarmed; we therefore thought it our duty to appoint a day of faſting and prayer, which was on the ſeventh day of the ſame month. There was an univerſal ſolemnity, and profound attention obſerved on the face of the aſſembly, which exceeded any thing I ever ſaw before. It was a faſt day indeed. The ſaints aroſe by confeſſion of the infinite evil of ſin,—with fixed reſolution to live a new life. And in the cloſe of the day (like St. Paul) they thanked God and took courage. After this our meetings increaſed, and the bleſſed effuſions of the Holy Spirit were diſtilled upon us. It was affecting to be-

hold the saints exhorting; backsliders returning; and poor sinners crying for mercy. On the first Lord's day in October we attended on the ordinance of baptism. My poor soul was warmed with the love of God, which made me speak from the heart, and it reached the hearts of my brethren, and the dear assembly; and we felt the union of the Trinity surrounding us, when approaching the Lord's table.

After this conferences increased. My brethren were much engaged in prayer to God for the out-pouring of his Spirit. At some of our conferences there was a great solemnity upon the youth and children; one of whom mourned that she had lived in sin twelve years, till she thought she was become an old sinner; but it pleased God at this time to reveal Christ to her and many others, and to give them the hope of glory.

On the first Lord's-day in November, I baptized two. It was a good season. The ninth of this month, was a memorable night! The Lord gloriously manifested his power and love in bringing three persons into the clear liberty of the Gospel; one of whom was my fifth child, who I trust is brought into the kingdom of Christ, and who in her experience relates, (like Mary) that she had a discovery of him in the garden, and cried out Rabboni! Another in agony of soul, also cried out, "If I do go to hell, I will go begging for mercy!" and her distress rolled on to such a degree, that she left her chamber the latter part of the night, and passed into a burying yard, and fell on her knees in

sharp

ſharp diſtreſs, till the kind Lord revealed himſelf to her in a wonderful manner. The third was a woman, near forty years of age, who gave a clear relation of the love of God in her ſoul from day to day. We now ſaw, both in the houſe of God and in our own houſes, the ſweet whiſpers of the bleſſed Dove; and ſtout hearted ſinners bowing to the ſceptre of the great Emanuel.

The firſt of December was our Covenant meeting preceding the Lord's-day, and which was taken up in hearing the relations of candidates. A number more relating their exerciſes the day following; and notwithſtanding it was a very ſevere ſnow ſtorm, twelve were baptized, a number of whom were youths from ten to fifteen years of age. The ſaints in general were animated with the love of God, and were mighty in prayer for precious ſouls, triumphing over the united powers of darkneſs. Indeed it is almoſt beyond my power to give a full deſcription of this wonderful ſcene. It is alſo to be remarked that our brethren of the Preſbyterian order and other denominations joined with us in promoting the cauſe of our bleſſed Redeemer. About this time, meetings on week-days were attended to for receiving candidates, and attending to baptiſm; and through the ſeverity of this tedious winter, I have not heard any one complain or ſhrink at the croſs, on account of the coldneſs of the weather.

This work has been glorioufly carried on in the ſpirit of love. In the firſt part of it, there

was

was great outcrying, but it gradually subsided into a free deliberate conversation on the dreadful situation they were in by nature; and their full determination to continue seeking till they should find him of whom Moses and the prophets did write. I never saw less opposition in any work of God I ever was acquainted with.

The principal part of this work, was in this society; but it has spread into others in the neighboring towns. More than a hundred we hope have received the grace of God; and more than eighty have joined with the Church under my watch care.

When I consider the great number of souls committed to my charge and my own insufficiency, my heart shrinks within me; but all my hope is in the great Head of the Church. My daily prayer is that he would grant me his grace as an under Shepherd, to discharge my duty towards God and my dear Flock, during the few remains of life.

The number of members under my care at present, is three hundred and thirty six.

INFORMATION, though not very correct, has also been received from a number of towns in Cheshire County, in New-Hampshire, of a very pleasing and extensive reformation there.

The following towns are said to have shared largely in it, viz. Unity, Marlow, Lempster, Alstead, Ackworth, Cornish and Plainfield, with some others in that neighborhood. The towns of Stratham and New-market, in New-Hampshire, are favored at this time with like revivals;

revivals; but for want of accurate documents, a particular account cannot be given.

If the repentance of one ſinner cauſes joy in heaven among the angels of God, what ſhouts of immortal praiſe muſt have echoed through all the realms of bliſs, upon the acceſſion of ſuch numbers to the Redeemer's kingdom!

O Lord, may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done, on earth as in heaven, for Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

A Letter to a Gentleman in New-England.

LONDON, *April* 3, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I AM concerned at the length of time which has elapſed ſince I wrote you laſt; but the truth of the matter is, I have been waiting from day to day, and from month to month, to obtain intelligence that might be worth the poſtage, as I have long expected the publication of the Miſſionary Journal, which would have furniſhed me with many intereſting anecdotes. It has not yet come out and therefore I have only written you now as a ſort of promiſſory note, to aſſure you that you ſhall ſoon have a long, and I am ſure I may venture to ſay, very acceptable letter, which I hope will cauſe the thankſgiving of many to abound.

I ſincerely thank you, Sir, for exerting yourſelf to obtain a miſſionary prayer meeting at Vaſſalborough; the news of it, as well as your other communications, has rejoiced ſeveral pious friends to whom I have mentioned it, and it will ſhortly be announced to the public

through the medium of the Evangelical Magazine.

I hope it will not be long before I write to the miniſters you mentioned, as I ſhall feel it a a peculiar privilege to correſpond with ſuch men as you deſcribe them to be. You cannot imagine what pleaſure it afforded me to hear of their going into the wilderneſs to win ſouls to Chriſt. Pray give my love to them, and tell them I know no party diſtinctions; every one who loves Jeſus, and pities poor ſinners, is my friend and my brother. O Sir, the time is coming, it is near, when every partition-wall will be pulled down, and all Iſrael's watchmen will ſee eye to eye. In this reſpect, things go on gloriouſly with us. We now ſee half a dozen miniſters, of as many different denominations, engaging in the ſame ſervice with expreſſions of the moſt cordial affection to each other; men who, a few years ago, through bigotry, regarded each other as ſtern foes. The flame has reached Scotland alſo. Warm affection, lively zeal, and increaſing ſpirituality have ſucceeded the frigid orthodoxy for which poor Scotland has of late years been ſo famous. There are many adverſaries, but that muſt be expected.

Your favorite, dear Rowland Hill, has been preaching at Edinburgh, Glaſgow, &c. but you may ſuppoſe the Kirk doors were ſoon cloſed againſt him; ſo he took the right Methodiſt way of ſtreet and field preaching; and in his odd, good-natured way he ſays, "Scotland has good churches and good parſons, but the worſt of all is, the devil is their door-keeper." His

labors

labors have been eminently bleſſed, inſomuch that many thouſands in Edinburgh deſired a place where ſuch preaching might be continued to them. They engaged a ſpacious theatre, called the Circus, which is ſaid to hold above ſeven thouſand people; have conſtituted it on the Tabernacle plan, and have given it the new good name of "The Edinburgh Tabernacle;" and indeed Tabernacles are opening throughout Scotland. It may be neceſſary to acquaint you what is meant by the "Tabernacle plan"—It always ſuppoſes a regular miniſter, and a variety of viſiting miniſters who may occaſionally be upon the ſpot. This plan affords variety, exhibits love, and deſtroys petty diſtinctions and party ſpirit.

Diſtracted Ireland has likewiſe had a call. In Dublin and other places, evangelic preachers meet with encouragement. Mr. Hill has been there; and Mr. Cooper, a zealous young man who is uncommonly popular, is now going; may the Lord go with him, and make him a bleſſing to many.

You love anecdotes, I know; ſhall give you another? When Rowland Hill was in Ireland laſt year, the Papiſts had reſolved to murder him the next time he ſhould preach out of doors. He was apprized of it, and his friends wiſhed him to decline preaching. It was all to no purpoſe; come life or death, he declared he would preach. At the appointed time, thouſands were aſſembled, vowing his deſtruction as ſoon as he ſhould begin. They waited—no preacher appeared—their patience was almoſt exhauſted.

exhausted. At last a man in a large coachman's coat mixed with the crowd—inquired what they were waiting for—told them he was sorry they should be disappointed—would try if he could preach; but perhaps they would kill him? They applauded him—assured him protection—and he began——It was Rowland Hill himself! and it is believed many were converted at that time. Methinks I hear you say to this, Hallelujah, Praise the Lord.

Our Bishops too are growing like good Bishop Burnet, and are charging their clergy to outlive, outpray, and outpreach us. To this I add my hearty Amen.

Though I can give you but an imperfect account of Missionary Concerns at present, it will gratify you to present you with an outline of their proceedings. You anxiously wait for an account of their voyage, and wish to know how they were received at Otaheite. Believe me, dear Sir, all has exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Their voyage was one unbroken chain of mercies! No sickness—no death—no discontent. The remarkable providences they witnessed were so many and so great, that I know not what to record or what to omit. The elements were controlled for their sakes; they experienced no storms! When under a vertical sun, they were screened from its scorching rays by intervening clouds, such as the sailors declared they had never before witnessed. And when the ship returned home, her sails and rigging were in the best condition imaginable. One danger (and that a serious one) they

they encountered near one of the South Sea Islands. The ship struck upon a coral reef, which caused serious apprehensions; but she was got off without any injury, as they then supposed, though the bottom being examined after she came home, it was discovered to be so torn by the rocks, that, had they met with a storm on their homeward passage, she certainly must have foundered at sea.

You will easily recollect that we thought their chief difficulty would be in acquiring a knowledge of the Otaheitan language; but that Jehovah Jesus who sent them forth had provided interpreters beforehand. There were, on the different islands where Missions were to be established, several European men, who had been shipwrecked at different times, and some others, who, when ships touched at the islands, had left the vessels, and concealed themselves among the natives: These men were highly serviceable.

Another difficulty we supposed would arise from the want of a dwelling-place; for the females especially. Will it be called enthusiasm if I say, God had also built them a house? Truly it cannot—will not. Capt. Bligh visited these islands some few years since; when he left them, so attached were the Natives to him, that they would not part with him, till they obtained an intimation that he might perhaps re-visit them at a future period. Encouraged to expect him again, they set about building a house for his reception, 100 feet long and 40 wide. It was just completed when the Missionary ship

ſhip arrived, and had been named, The Engliſh Houſe. It was ſituated in a diſtrict called Matavia, unqueſtionably the beſt part of the Iſland, and which the Society had enjoined the Miſſionaries to obtain a formal grant of, if poſſible. No ſooner had they landed, and made their intentions of ſettling upon the Iſland known, through the medium of theſe interpreters, than his Otaheitan Majeſty made them a preſent of the houſe, and the whole diſtrict; and ſuch was the care and attention of the Natives to the Miſſionaries, they brought them every day a ſufficient ſupply of proviſions, and in all reſpects ſtudied their inclinations and neceſſities.

The wife of one of the Miſſionaries was delivered of a female child juſt before their arrival. When Pomanu (the King) ſaw the child, he was ſo delighted with it, he would have it called, My Deedee Taheite, which is, Otaheitan Child. The High Prieſt, who is cordially their friend, ſays he is too old to learn himſelf, but is glad they are come to teach the people better; for that Pretanes (Britain's) God is the beſt in the world. My friend Mr. Cover preached the firſt ſermon. Pomanu and his chiefs, with many of the people, attended; he took care to make his ſubjects behave well during ſervice, and afterwards ſaid it was *good—good*—but could not learn all at once—might come again? The Natives aſk when they will throw away Pretanes tongue, and ſpeak like them. The Miſſionaries have been honored as the inſtruments of ſaving ſeveral lives which were devoted as human ſacrifices, and have obtained a

ſolemn

ſolemn promiſe that that barbarous practice ſhall forever ceaſe. Ten Miſſionaries are ſettled at Tongatoboo, and one at the Marquefas, by his own conſent; indeed the Natives were ſo fond of him that they would not part with him. Capt. Wilſon reviſited each of the Miſſions previous to his return to England, I think nearly five months afterwards. Schools were then formed, and many children had acquired a complete knowledge of the alphabet, and every thing wore the moſt pleaſing appearance. I have now to tell you that other Miſſions are prepared. The Duff is again on her way to the South Seas. Miſs Wilks is married to a Miſſionary, and they are gone in her for Otaheite. The liberality of the Britiſh Chriſtians ſuffers no decay. I have ſeen a letter from one of the Miſſionaries, dated, I believe, from Plymouth, and he ſays, "if we ſtay here much longer, the Society had better fit out a ſecond ſhip to carry our ſtores."

Dr. Vanderkempt, a Dutch Phyſician of great erudition and piety, came from Holland to offer himſelf as a Miſſionary, though in the decline of life. He brought a young Dutchman with him on the ſame errand: they with two Engliſhmen, form a miſſion to the Chaffree Country in Africa; and are, if poſſible, to ſketch to Madagaſcar alſo. Theſe went out in a Convict ſhip from choice, hoping to be ſerviceable to the poor wretches on their voyage, and took with them a great number of Bibles. Theſe Miſſions ſailed in company with a great number of other ſhips under convoy. At firſt they had

had tolerable weather, but met with a terrible ſtorm off the Madeiras. The ſhip in which Dr. Vanderkempt was, ſuffered prodigiouſly; the night was dreadful indeed; all the pumps were at work, and yet the water gained upon them. At laſt, the Captain came to the Miſſionaries, and told them it was in vain to diſſemble; all hope was over; and every moment expected the ſhip would go down. The Miſſionaries were happy in God, and the young Dutchman came to Dr. Vanderkempt, and ſaid with great pleaſure, "well Sir, the ſhip may go down, but *our foundation* cannot ſink." They went to prayer and committed one another to God; it was then diſcovered that one of the port-holes was open, and was the only cauſe of the ſhip's filling: As ſoon as it was ſhut they applied to the pumps with double alacrity, and by morning light were out of danger: And judge what muſt have been their pleaſure, to ſee the little Duff cloſe them uninjured. This is the laſt intelligence we have received from them I have now given you all the intelligence my paper will allow.

May grace, mercy and peace reſt upon you, with every new covenant mercy---ſo prays yours affectionately, E. J. J.

THE END.